

**CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Monday, January 5, 2009**  
**The Center of Clayton - Multipurpose Room A**

**The following members were present:**

Mimi Deem	Robert Kerr
Judy Goodman	Eric Schneider
Rosemary Hardy	Mark Winnings
Dick Hyde	

**Excused/Absent**

Ira Berkowitz  
Alex Berger  
Jessie Hoagland  
Omri Praiss

*Also present:*

Patty DeForrest, Director of Parks and Recreation

**Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Director's Report**

Ms. DeForrest reported that the Parks and Recreation Department staff will begin preparing quarterly budget reports for the Commission. The reports will be available at the February meeting.

The outdoor and indoor budgets look fine at this point. It has been reported that other Parks and Recreation departments in the area are feeling the effects of the economy. While we have felt some of the effects it is not making a huge impact on our budget. We may feel more of an impact now that the eastern part of highway 40 has been shut down.

Shaw Park Ice Rink is having an outstanding season. For the first time in many years the ice rink opened the day after Thanksgiving Day as scheduled. On Friday, November 28 the ice rink had the busiest day it has had in 8 years. We are currently looking at revising holiday hours due to demand. We do have some extended evening hours this year which are well attended. The Ice Rink Task force did review hours and suggested having more consistent hours for the public. The primary reason we have not held regular hours in the past have been due to staffing, partly due to the history of the rink, extensive use from hockey and skate groups, as well as Physical Education teachers hosting broomball after school.

The St. Louis Visitor's Bureau recently filmed a commercial at the ice rink and it went very well. It was great publicity for us. There was also an article in the St. Louis Post Dispatch about the rink and the fact that New Town is opening an outdoor rink.

A press release was published announcing that the City of Clayton will host the Mid-State Classic Hockey tournament at the ice rink on Saturday, January 24. The Mid States Hockey Club Association is handling many of the planning aspects in conjunction with our Athletic and Facilities Supervisors. They will be showcasing hockey at outdoor rinks. There will be a series of games and youth programs. The association will be setting up bleachers and handling concession operations.

The Fitness Center at The Center of Clayton is being renovated. We have already replaced some of the cardio equipment. We are just waiting for a few more pieces to arrive. The selectorized (weight) equipment is being replaced with all new state of the art Nautilus equipment. As a result of the remodel, the Fitness Center will be closed from January 22-January 26. There will be a limited number of cardio equipment in the upstairs lobby. Members will be able to utilize the Heights in Richmond Heights while renovations are taking place. Ms. DeForrest will look into finding out if the track will remain open during this time.

Cupid's Ball will be held on February 9 at the Ritz Carlton. This is a father daughter dance that we have hosted for over 10 years. The event always sells out and is tons of fun for all.

### **Capital Budget Presentation**

Ms. DeForrest conducted a Power Point presentation on the many aspects of the Capital Budget. (Please refer to the Power Point presentation slides that were distributed at the January meeting for additional detailed information.) One of the main focal points of the presentation was based on Fund 70. Our budget straddles over a 2 year time span. For example, our current budget year started on October 1, 2008 and will end on September 30, 2009. Since this is the case we have to start preparing the FY2010 budget in the middle of this year, which at times makes it difficult to make adjustments based on revenue and expenses when planning for the next budget year.

The bulk of Fund 70 is from sales tax that has been generated since 1997 from a ½ cent sales tax based by the voters. Very little money from this fund is used for storm water. Ms. DeForrest discussed the process of what projects have been funded and why. It was also noted that this Fund is supplemented by funds from the Parking Fund. The parking fund is generated from monies collected at City of Clayton parking garages and from parking tickets.

In our miscellaneous revenue account approximately \$60,000 was used to put together the Master Plan created in 2007. We also refinanced The Center of Clayton expense account through a debt service which is why our expense account has decreased. This debt will be retired in 2017.

A summary of projects for Fund 70 was also discussed. Ms. DeForrest will work with the Commission on developing a plan to rank Master Plan projects based on funding and importance of the project. The projects that were discussed in 2007 and early 2008 which are included in the budget are: Field renovations to 5 & 6 to include lighting, resurfacing of path in Shaw Park, tennis center rebuild, Hanley House HVAC & other projects, additional shade at the pool and work on the parking lot and paths in Oak Knoll Park.

At the present time we are waiting to hear back from a consultant about a plan on the Oak Knoll parking lot and trail. There are some stormwater problems that need to be addressed.

The Commission members briefly discussed the leases associated with the Artist Guild and the Clayton Child Center at Oak Knoll Park. Ms. DeForrest noted that both entities have 20 year leases. The Artist's Guild's lease expires in 2010 and the Clayton Child Center lease expires at the end of this year. Currently both places pay for all of their utilities and repairs. We would like to update their leasing agreements and if they stay the same the City of Clayton will receive \$7,500 in rent each year. It is great to have these organizations in our park.

Other points from the budget discussion to note are that some of the tree maintenance work is contracted out because we do not have a forester on staff. Also, we currently do not have a design for the walking trail project in Shaw Park.

The budget priorities to focus on in 2010 are: priority of grants, identify those projects that will be part of the Century Foundation, design and planning for projects and designs that need to be put out for bid right away. At the next meeting the Commission will work on Project Prioritization.

### **Old Business / New Business**

Irrigation was put in down the center of Wydown Boulevard east of Big Bend that will allow grass to still grow when people utilize it as a running path. This is a pilot project conducted by the Public Works department.

The Candlelight Tour held at the Hanley House in December was a success despite the bad weather. Sixteen people attended the event.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Denise Ucinski